

TNR HELP IS AVAILABLE

Recently the St. Clair Shores City Council passed an ordinance allowing for Trap-Neuter-Return, or TNR, of feral cats within the city. Paws For The Cause Feral Cat Rescue has put together a brief letter to help familiarize residents with feral cats and TNR. Feral cats live and thrive in every environment from rural areas to inner-city. These are cats that are not socialized to people, do not want to live indoors, and are not adoptable. Like any other animal in our environment, wild or domestic, they are protected under Michigan's anti-cruelty laws. Studies have shown that feral cats have the same low rates of infectious diseases as our pet cats, and can have the same lifespan.

TNR is the process of trapping feral cats and getting them spayed or neutered, rabies vaccinations, ear-tipped for identification, and then returning them to their original location. TNR ends reproduction, stabilizes feral cat populations, and improves individual cats' lives. The behaviors and stresses associated with mating— pregnancy, yowling, and fighting—stop. The cats that are trapped are brought to All About Animals Rescue for spay/neuter the same day or day after being trapped. They are held at their location for 24 hours following surgery and then returned. Feral cats are returned to their original location to stabilize, and eventually reduce, their numbers.

Previous to TNR, local municipalities have practiced catch-and-remove, or better known as catch-and-kill to deal with feral cats. Removing feral cat populations only opens up the habitat to an influx of new cats, either from neighboring territories or born from survivors. When cats are removed from a colony or territory and not returned, a vacuum effect is created. The vacuum effect describes what happens when even a portion of an animal population is permanently removed from its home territory. New, unaltered feral cats will occupy the vacant territory and no reduction in numbers will occur. The vacuum effect is a well-documented and recognized worldwide, and has been shown to hold true for animals of all types of species.

Residents of St. Clair Shores can take the TNR course through All About Animals Rescue in Warren. Following this program you will be able to loan out traps from All About Animals and conduct TNR on your own and in your own neighborhoods, at a reduced cost. If you are unable to do this on your own, you can contact Paws For The Cause Feral Cat Rescue for assistance at 586-804-7297 or laurawilhelm11@yahoo.com. Paws For The Cause Feral Cat Rescue receives many calls each day with requests for help with TNR from across the entire region. We make every effort to help as many people as we can, but simply cannot respond to every request for aid. For this reason we encourage residents to take the course on their own, and become involved in the process of TNR in St. Clair Shores.

If you are an owner of a business located in St. Clair Shores that has feral cats, please contact Paws For The Cause Feral Cat Rescue directly so that we may discuss the situation at your business.